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25 August 1969

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Assistant Deputy Director for Intelligence
Room 7E44 - Headquarters

Declass Review by
NIMA/DOD

Dear Ed:

Now that the NRO Executive Committee has reached a preliminary decision with regard to going ahead with a Near Real Time Program, it appears likely that the Agency will have to begin moving ahead with its own planning in this regard.

Early decisions are likely to be required using FY 71 monies not now available for such major things as A&E for a new exploitation facility and development of special equipment required for exploitation.

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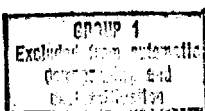
The [] Report was a great one for sketching out the major issues. The need now is for follow-up. NPIC is ready and willing to do its share, but the various aspects involved in all the follow-up clearly exceed NPIC responsibility and competence. The aspects include: system hardware development, facility construction (this includes both processing and exploitation construction), requirements and tasking, exploitation, intelligence production, and inter-community arrangements.

For beginners, we plan to keep in close touch with COMIREX and we are scheduled to begin some deliberations with OSP next week.

We understand that it has been proposed to the Executive Director - Comptroller that he schedule an early meeting with Deputies to discuss the impact of the EXCOM decision. This letter is intended to provide some input to your and Jack's preparations for any such meeting.

Obviously, we hope the Agency will avoid the traditional tendency to concentrate more on the dollar-demanding collection and processing area than on exploitation or intelligence production. From where we sit it is essential to move in the direction recommended by [] that is to designate a program manager to relate the various issues. 25X1

In summary, NPIC is aware that it has a major role to play with regard to determination of the need for and nature of a "new facility," types of exploitation required, procedures for relating imagery information to intelligence 25X1



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production, and the costing-out of resource needs. We do not want to go "riding off in all directions" and await Agency moves to begin systematic planning at an early date. These moves, I believe, call for the naming of a manager to integrate a program under which NPIC efforts and those of others (including the Intelligence Directorate) can be mounted effectively.

Because I think it would be most helpful to you and Jack, I would suggest that you take some time to hear [] views on a program plan for Near Real Time. In listening to Frank it becomes clear that early decisions in several crucial fields will be necessary.

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[]
Executive Director

National Photographic Interpretation Center

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